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a switching device coupled to the cutter that switches a state of the cutter between a full cutting state and a half cutting state, the cutter performing the full cutting in the full cutting state and the half cutting in the half cutting stage, on the sheet; and

a controller coupled to the switching device that controls the switching device so that the half cutting is performed at least twice on the sheet before the full cutting is performed thereon.

2. (Amended) The label making apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cutter and the switching device are part of a self-propelled cutting unit, the state of the cutter can be switched between the full cutting state and the half cutting state at ends of a traveling path of self-propelled cutting unit, the switching device takes selectively one of at least three positions and achieves one of the full cutting state and the half cutting state commonly at least two positions of the at least three positions, each of the at least two positions where the switching device commonly achieves the one of the full cutting state and the half cutting state existing on both sides of another position respectively and in a line parallel to the traveling path, the switching device achieving another of the full cutting state and the half cutting state at the other position.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 4-6 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended for clarification purposes only.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants gratefully appreciate the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the September 16 personal interview with Examiner Dexter. The points discussed during the personal interview are reemphasized in this Amendment.

The Office Action objects to Fig. 1 because of a misspelled word. Applicants amend Fig. 1 to correct the misspelled word. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Fig. 1 be withdrawn.

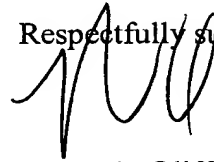
The Office Action objects to the Abstract because of a missing word. Applicants attach a Substitute Abstract with this Amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the Abstract be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants amend claims 1 and 2 for clarification to correspond to a recommendation by Examiner Dexter, and to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 - 3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RSE/alp

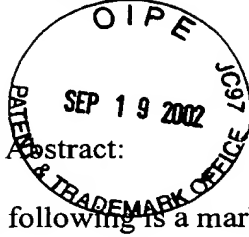
Attachments:

Abstract
Appendix
Request for Approval of Drawing Correction

Date: September 19, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>



APPENDIX

Changes to Abstract:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended Abstract.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A label making apparatus includes a cutter that cuts sheets along a desired line, the cutter being switchable between a full cutting state and a half cutting state.

A controller controls a switching device to switch the cutter between the full cutting state and the half cutting state. A method of making labels includes performing the half cutting on the sheet at least twice before performing the full cutting.

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Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims: TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

1. (Amended) A label making apparatus that makes labels by performing a full cutting and a half cutting on a sheet, comprising:
 - a cutter that cuts the sheet along a desired line;
 - a switching device coupled to the cutter that switches a state of the cutter between a full cutting state and a half cutting state, the cutter performing the full cutting in the full cutting state and the half cutting in the half cutting stage, on the sheet; and
 - a controller coupled to the switching device that controls the switching device so that the half cutting is performed at least twice on the sheet before the full cutting is performed thereon.

2. (Amended) The label making apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cutter and the switching device ~~is~~ are supported by part of a self-propelled cutting unit, the state of the cutter can be switched between the full cutting state and the half cutting state at ends of a traveling path of self-propelled cutting unit, the switching device takes selectively

one of at least three positions and achieves one of the full cutting state and the half cutting state commonly at least two positions of the at least three positions, each of the at least two positions where the switching device commonly achieves the one of the full cutting state and the half cutting state existing on both sides of another position respectively and in a line parallel to the traveling path, the switching device achieving another of the full cutting state and the half cutting state at the other position.